

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A container for delivering nicotine to a subject by inhalation without smoking or combustion of tobacco comprising a shaped mass of fibers and/or filaments; and nicotine ~~releasable~~ releasably retained in said shaped mass, wherein the container has a flow resistance of gas being lower than the equivalent of about 1.0 kPa at a gas flow rate of about 1000 ml/min, and wherein the container is encapsulated with a nicotine-impermeable polymer.
2. **(Canceled)**
3. (Original) The container according to claim 1, wherein said container has a flow resistance of gas being lower than the equivalent of about 0.6 kPa at a gas flow rate of about 1000 ml/min.
4. (Original) The container according to claim 1, wherein said container has a flow resistance of gas being lower than the equivalent of about 0.3 kPa at a gas flow rate of about 1000 ml/min.
5. (Original) The container according to claim 1, wherein said nicotine is retained by means selected from the group consisting of chemical binding, adsorption, absorption or mixtures thereof, and released by breaking these mechanisms.
6. (Original) The container according to claim 1, wherein said container further comprises non-fibrous material.
7. (Original) The container according claim 1, wherein said fibers or filaments are non-sintered.
8. **(Canceled)**

9. (Withdrawn) The container according to claim 1, wherein said fibers or filaments comprise a member selected from the group consisting of glass, metals, paper, cellulose, or cloth.
10. (Withdrawn) The container according to claim 9, wherein said fibers or filaments comprise aluminum or steel.
11. (Original) The container according to claim 1, wherein said fibers or filaments comprise polymeric material.
12. (Original) The container according to claim 11, wherein said polymeric material comprises a member selected from the group consisting of polyolefin, polyester and/or polyamide.
13. (**Currently Amended**) The container according to claim 12, wherein said polymeric material comprises ~~comprises~~ a member selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, polybutadiene, poly-1-butene, polyisobutene, polyisoprene, polyvinylidene chloride, ethylene vinyl alcohol, polylactide-glycolide copolymer, polycarbonate, polyethylene naphthalene, polytrimethylene naphthalene, polyethylene terephthalate, terephthalate-isophthalate polyesters, polybutylene terephthalate, liquid crystalline polymer that comprises hydroxy benzoic acid and hydroxy naphthenic acid, a copolymer of acrylonitrile and methacrylate nylon 66, or nylon 6 or copolymers thereof or combinations thereof.
14. (Original) The container according to claim 13, wherein said polymeric material comprises polyethylene.
15. (Original) The container according to claim 13, wherein said polymeric material comprises polyethylene terephthalate.

16. (Original) The container according to claim 1, wherein said fibers or filaments are produced by spinning and/or extrusion.

17. (**Canceled**)

18. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a container according to claim 1, wherein said container is loaded with nicotine by using a gas that comprises nicotine.

19. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 18, wherein said loading is done in an oxygen-free environment.

20. (Withdrawn) The method for producing a container according to claim 1, wherein said container is loaded with nicotine by immersing said container in a solution comprising nicotine.

21. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 20, wherein said loading is done in an oxygen-free environment.

22. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 20, wherein said solution used for loading comprises nicotine and an organic solvent.

23. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 22, wherein said organic solvent is selected from organic solvents that are more volatile than nicotine.

24. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 23, wherein said organic solvent is selected from the group of ethers, ketones and alcohols.

25. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 24, wherein said organic solvent is selected from alcohols.

26. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 25, wherein said organic solvent is ethanol.